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DATE: 03/24/97
PAGE: 1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : NSA
RECORD NUMBER : 144-10001-10118

RECORDS SERIES :

AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : NSA
FROM : NSA
TO : HCF

~~[R]~~

TITLE :
3/0/[]/T70-64: CASTRO INTERVIEW ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

[R]

DATE : 01/10/64
PAGES : 2

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

SUBJECTS :
[] DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY
CUBA, REACTION TO ASSASSINATION

[R]
~~[R]~~

DOCUMENT TYPE : REPORT
CLASSIFICATION : ~~T~~
RESTRICTIONS : 1B
CURRENT STATUS : X
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/11/93

OPENING CRITERIA :
ORIGINATING AGENCY'S DETERMINATION REQUIRED

COMMENTS :
~~CONTAINS SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION~~

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

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WS 11103, 11102,
11211

3/0/ /T70-64
IS 10 Jan 1935Z P
Dist: HCF

CASTRO INTERVIEW ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

3 Jan 64
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Msg Nr: 2-4

[3-part message complete]

I am communicating to you herewith Washington telegram Nr. 25-27 of 2 January 1964.

On 1 January Mr. FIDEL CASTRO granted an interview by telephone to a newsman from the ABC radio and television network. The Cuban leader repeated that he hoped to normalize relations between his country and the United States, and he added: "Henceforth it is up to the United States to take a step in that direction." Mr. CASTRO stated that "until the tragic death of President KENNEDY," he thought that "the normalization of Cuban relations with the American administration was possible." While acknowledging that public opinion in the United States is still hostile to Cuba and wants the naval blockade of the island strengthened, he appeared "full of hope" as to the future of his relations with President JOHNSON.

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

The Cuban Chief of Government even gave concrete proof of his good will by bringing up the problem of the indemnification of American citizens who were victims of nationalization in the following terms: "We are ready to speak of the indemnities due under the heading of the nationalization of American property by the revolutionary((A)). Thus, you can see that we are sincere when we say that we are ready to talk, but that does not depend only on us."

However, Mr. CASTRO did refuse to pay the price of

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renunciation of Marxism for the "amelioration of his relations with the United States." The administration has not, up to now, commented on this interview, which is receiving little publicity in the American press.

((A)) Obvious omission.

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

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